

Dr. Dunglison announced the decease of the Baron Joseph Von Hammer Purgstall, a member of this Society, who died recently in Vienna at an advanced age.

A communication was read, entitled "Notes on certain modes of measuring minute intervals of time," by Dr. J. C. Adamson, which was referred to a committee consisting of Prof. Frazer, Mr. Justice, and Prof. Kendall.

Judge Kane asked for information relative to photographic representations of the moon, and inquired why the process cannot be so improved as to give pictures of the moon's surface, by means of magnified photographs, under intense light, which may be rendered useful for astronomical purposes, and to afford us a more complete knowledge than we now possess, of the actual condition of affairs on the surface of the moon.

Mr. Justice, in reference to this subject, remarked, that in magnifying photographic representations of the moon's face, the imperfections of the picture (arising from irregularities of the surface upon which the impression is made or transferred) are so magnified as materially to impair the useful effects of the operation. He referred to the difficulty of producing magnified images with clear and distinct characters of the objects represented by the photographic process; but expressed a confident hope that the progress of the arts would, before long, produce apparatus by which the present difficulties in relation to this matter would be overcome.

The Reporter laid upon the table No. 56 of the Proceedings of this Society, recently published.

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*Stated Meeting, February 20.*

Present, twelve members.

Prof. CRESSON, Vice-President, in the Chair.

Prof. Fairman Rogers, Mr. Thomas P. James, and Mr. Theodore Cuyler, recently elected members, were introduced and took their seats.

Letters were read:—

From the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, dated Philadelphia, February 6: from the New York Historical Society, dated February 10: from the Connecticut Historical Society, dated Hartford, February 11: from the Antiquarian Society, dated Worcester, February 11: from the New Jersey Historical Society, dated Newark, February 16, 1857: all acknowledging the receipt of No. 56 of the Proceedings of this Society.

The following donations were announced:—

FOR THE LIBRARY.

- Message from the President of the United States to the two Houses of Congress, at the commencement of the third session of the 34th Congress: with accompanying documents. 2 Vols. Washington, 1856. 8vo.—*From the Hon. J. R. Tyson.*
- Chaplains of the General Government; with objections to their employment considered. Also a List of all the Chaplains to Congress, in the Army, and in the Navy, from the formation of the government to this time. By George D. Johnson. New York, 1856. 8vo.—*From the same.*
- The History of the United States, from their colonization to the end of the 26th Congress in 1831. By George Tucker. Vols. I. II. Philadelphia, 1856. 8vo.—*From the Author.*
- The U. S. Naval Astronomical Expedition to the Southern Hemisphere, during the years 1849, 50, 51, 52. Vol. VI. Magnetical and Meteorological Observations, under the direction of Lieut. J. M. Gilliss, L.L.D. Superintendent. Washington, 1856. 4to.—*From the Author.*
- Annual Report of the Board of Directors of the Pennsylvania Institution for the Deaf and Dumb, for 1856. Philadelphia. 8vo.—*From James J. Barclay, Esq.*
- Criminal Insane: Insane Transgressors and Insane Convicts. By Edward Jarvis, M.D.—and Address delivered at the laying of the corner stone of the Insane Hospital at Northampton, Mass. By Edward Jarvis, M.D. Boston, 1856-7. 8vo.—*From the Author.*
- Twenty-second Annual Report of the Young Men's Library Association of Cincinnati, for the year 1856. Cincinnati. 8vo.—*From the Association.*

Proceedings of the Boston Society of Natural History. Vol. VI. No. 5. Jan. 1857. Boston. 8vo.—*From the Society.*

The African Repository. Vol. XXXIII. No. 2. February, 1857. Washington. 8vo.—*From the American Colonization Society.*

Prof. Trego announced the death of Mr. W. C. Redfield, of New York, a member of this Society, who died on the 12th inst. in the 68th year of his age.

In reference to the application of photography to produce correct representations of the moon's surface, spoken of at the last meeting, Dr. Le Conte remarked that the distortion of the moon, in consequence of the attraction of the earth, had, as Prof. Hansen observed, resulted in an elevation of the visible face of the moon of about eight miles; and that, in his opinion, the surface, at this elevation, would be deprived in great part, or, indeed, entirely, of the ordinary physical agents of geological changes.

Mr. Justice expressed doubt as to this being the case, and thought it probable that changes are going on there as every where else in nature.

Prof. Cresson referred to the changes of temperature on the moon, owing to its position with regard to the action of the sun's rays, as likely to produce meteorological phenomena on that planet, of a nature and intensity of which we can have little conception.

The minutes of the Board of Officers and Council at their last meeting were read.

On motion of Dr. Harris, it was resolved that the Board of Officers and Council be requested to consider the expediency of appointing a member to bring forward a subject for discussion, and to give his views thereon; or of any other measure which, in their opinion, may tend to increase the interest of the meetings, and promote the objects for which the Society was instituted.

On motion of Mr. Fraley, the following resolution was adopted:—

*Resolved,* That the Board of Officers and Council be requested to inquire and report, whether it be expedient to make any alteration in the regulations under which the Magellanic and Extra-Magellanic

premiums are awarded; and if they may deem alteration expedient, then to report such modifications in the regulations as will invite regular claims for such premiums.

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*Special Meeting, February 27.*

Present, twenty-four members.

Dr. DUNGLISON, Vice-President, in the Chair.

The presiding officer stated that he had ordered a special meeting to be called, under the conviction that the Society would be desirous to pay their tribute of respect to the memory of a distinguished member, Dr. E. K. Kane, whose services to science and humanity are appreciated by the whole civilized world; whose life had been one of adventurous daring and of genuine philanthropy; and whose enlightened efforts had greatly enlarged the boundaries of geographical and general knowledge.

Whereupon, the following resolutions were offered by Dr. William Harris, and unanimously adopted:—

*Resolved*, That this Society has heard, with deep regret, of the death of its late distinguished member Dr. Elisha Kent Kane, who fell a victim to his zeal in the cause of humanity and of science, from the effects of exposure and sufferings endured during his last expedition to the Arctic regions, in search of Sir John Franklin and his party.

*Resolved*, That in the death of Dr. Kane, this Society has lost one of its brightest ornaments; science a distinguished contributor; humanity a devoted friend; and the world an intrepid navigator and learned geographer.

*Resolved*, That in respect to the memory of the deceased, the Society will, as a body, attend the funeral of our late associate.

*Resolved*, That a portrait of Dr. Kane be placed in the Hall of the Society, as a continuing memorial of him, which may silently teach us, and those who are to come after us, how to pursue and to adorn science with persevering energy, truth, modesty and excellence.

*Resolved*, That a member be appointed to prepare a notice of the